

Hist 499W
Native Cultures of the Americas
Samford University, Fall Semester 2006
TTR 11:00am-12:50pm DBH 217

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Barry Robinson
Office Hrs: MW 10:30-11:30am, TTR 9:00am-10:30am, or by appt.
Office: DBH 314
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Course Description and Objectives

*Ethnohistorical study of the indigenous cultures of the Americas,
from pre-Colombian times to the present.*

Students in History 499 will study the history of the indigenous peoples of the Americas from an ethnohistorical perspective. Accordingly, we will emphasize the study of culture through the use of traditional documentary sources, but also considering anthropological studies, oral histories, archaeological data, linguistic insights, and other ethnographic resources. The course will not include a comprehensive survey of the entirety of the Native American experience. Instead, students will explore key themes in a hybrid seminar/lecture/workshop format, ranging from precolombian civilizations through the colonial period and into the modern experience. In addition to extensive readings and reflection, students will be responsible for ethnographic research supporting the development of a GIS-based digital tool for the study of the indigenous cultures of the Americas.

Readings

- *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Christopher Columbus*
Charles C. Mann (NY: Knopf, 2005) ISBN: 140004006X
- *We Alone Will Rule: Native Andean Politics in the Age of Insurgency*
Sinclair Thomson (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003) ISBN: 0299177947
- *In Bitterness and in Tears: Andrew Jackson's Destruction of the Creeks and Seminoles*
Sean Michael O'Brien. (The Lyons Press, 2005) ISBN: 159228681X
- *Indians in Unexpected Places*
Philip J. Deloria (University Press of Kansas, 2006) ISBN: 0700614591
- *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*
Rigoberta Menchú Tum (Verso, 1987) ISBN: 0860917886
- Selected Articles and Primary Sources

Assignments and Grading

25%	Class Participation and Discussion Leading
25%	Successful Participation in ERICA Project
25%	Book/Article Reviews and Primary Source Reflections
25%	Final Research Paper

I. Class Participation and Discussion Leading (25%)

Success in this course depends upon faithfully attending class, completing the assigned readings, and participating productively in discussion of the issues we'll be considering. [See attendance policy below]. A portion of this grade will also be determined by your leadership of weekly discussions (scheduled at the beginning of the semester) and your successful completion of in-class reading quizzes.

II. ERICA Project (25%)

Over the course of the semester, our class will contribute to the development of a GIS-based digital tool called the Ethnographic Resource for the Indigenous Cultures of the Americas (ERICA). Individually and in groups, students will complete ethnographic research on specific indigenous cultures that will then be pooled into a collective database for class (and potentially public) use. This will involve the collection of demographic data, maps, primary texts, images, and other relevant information, and the organization of these resources into a standardized format. Students will also make a presentation of their research to the class during the final week of the semester.

III. Book Reviews and Source Reflections (25%)

Students will review three of the five assigned books during the course of the semester. You will also be responsible for brief reflections on select articles and primary sources on WebCT discussion threads.

IV. Research Paper and (25%)

Each of you will write a 12-15 page research paper based on original research in primary sources and secondary literature. This will constitute 25% of your grade. You will need to submit a proposed topic (in writing, in person, by appt.) before Thursday, October 19th, and will meet with the professor again no later than Tuesday, November 14th to provide an update of your research progress. Papers will be due on Tuesday, December 5th, no later than the start of class.

***Extra Credit Opportunity: Thursday, October 19**

Davis Lecture address by Dr. Juan Hernández, founder of the Center for U.S.-Mexico Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Hernández is the first U.S. born member of the president's cabinet in Mexico, and a noted author and commentator.

Grading Scale

A	93.0 - 100%
A-	90.0 - 92.9%
B+	87.0 - 89.9%
B	83.0 - 86.9%
B-	80.0 - 82.9%
C+	77.0 - 79.9%
C	70.0 - 72.9%
C-	73.0 - 76.9%
D+	67.0 - 69.9%
D	63.0 - 66.9%
D-	60.0 - 62.9%
F	00.0 - 59.9%

Schedule*

* Reading assignments should be completed by the class day for which they are listed. Schedule subject to adjustment during the semester.

PRECONTACT

8/29 NONE
8/31 *1491* [pp. ix-27, 339-343]

9/5 *1491* [pp. 137-173]
9/7 *1491* [pp. 31-96]

9/12 *1491* [pp. 97-136]
9/14 *1491* [pp. 243-279]

CONQUEST, CONFLICT AND ADAPTATION: Early Colonial Period

9/19 *1491* [pp. 280-328]
9/21 *1491* [pp. 329-337]

9/26 --
9/28 *We Alone* [ix-63]

CONQUEST, CONFLICT AND ADAPTATION: Late Colonial Period

10/3 *We Alone* [64-139]
10/5 *We Alone* [140-179]

10/10 *We Alone* [180-231]
10/12 *We Alone* [232-280]

[FALL BREAK October 16-17, no classes]

10/19 *We Alone* Book Review Due

*Extra Credit Opportunity: Davis Lecture by Dr. Juan Hernández, in Reid Chapel, 10/19

CONQUEST, CONFLICT AND ADAPTATION: Early National Period

10/24 *In Bitterness and Tears* ix-62
10/26 *In Bitterness and Tears* 63-116

10/31 *In Bitterness and Tears* 117-185 [Guest discussion with Sean Flynt]
11/2 *In Bitterness and Tears* 187-240 [Meet in library computer classroom]

*Submit your project proposal on WebCT by this date.

NATIVE AMERICANS, RACE, AND NATIONALISM: Late 19th & Early 20th Centuries

11/7 *In Bitterness and Tears* Book Review Due
11/9 *Indians in Unexpected Places* ix-51

NATIVE AMERICANS, RACE, AND NATIONALISM: 20th Century

11/14 *Indians in Unexpected Places* 52-135
11/16 *Indians in Unexpected Places* 136-182

11/21 *Indians in Unexpected Places* 183-240

[THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, November 22-24, no classes]

CURRENT ISSUES IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

11/28 *I, Rigoberta* 248-251, vii-140

11/30 *I, Rigoberta* 141-247

12/5 ERICA Project Wrap up [Meet in library computer classroom]

12/7 ERICA Project Wrap up [Meet in library computer classroom]

12/14 10:30am FINAL EXAMINATION [NOTE, there will be no final exam]

Other important semester dates:

Aug. 29 - 10:00 a.m. required university convocation

Sept. 1 - last day to Drop/Add without financial penalty

Oct. 13 - last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Nov. 16 - last day to completely withdraw from semester without academic penalty

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend every class session. As you are only able to drop the lowest two daily readings quiz scores, excessive absences will hurt your grade. Additionally, more than 5 total absences will result in a grade of FA. Exceptions will only be made in the event of a serious illness or emergency in which the student provides documentation from the Dean's office requesting an exception to the policy. Unless prior arrangements are made with the professor, it will be the student's responsibility to determine what was missed during their absence and to arrange for any necessary remediation.

Academic Integrity:

The Samford Honor Code governs all work done in this course, written or otherwise. In all cases students are expected to present original work, or to properly acknowledge the source of information gathered from other sources. Please refer to your copy of the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of the importance of academic integrity. If in doubt about a particular issue, consult the professor.

Disabilities:

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services, located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall (telephone number: 726-4078 or 726-2105). Instructor will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

* Professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at his discretion at any time during the semester.